RIDEMATCH

What is Ridematch?

Ridematch is a computerized ridematching service that helps employers and employees form and maintain carpools and vanpools, using a sophisticated Global Information System (GIS) mapping software.

The Ridematch system is a database containing approximately 10,000 names of residents throughout the greater Puget Sound area, who are interested in finding a ridematch (rideshare partner.) The system matches people with similar commuting characteristics and provides them with lists of potential ridesharing partners, a map showing where potential rideshare partners live, and other pertinent transportation information.

What are the benefits of Ridematch?

To Employers:
- offers more potential ridematch candidates to employees, which improves the rate of carpool/vanpool formation;
- provides free ridematch services to employers and employees in the Puget Sound Region;
- helps address employer relocation/emergency preparedness plans, event matching or ridematching;
- reduces the staff time necessary to manage an in-house ridematch program.

To Employees:
- provides a list of names of those who have volunteered to share a ride with others;
- provides free personalized ridematch services that help employees form and maintain vanpools and carpools;
- provides employees with a variety of ridesharing choices and the tools to facilitate a carpool or vanpool arrangement.

What are favorable conditions for Ridematch?

Ridematch is most effective when:
- companies provide incentives such as a FlexPass, guaranteed ride home program, ridesharing subsidies and preferential or discounted parking for employees who rideshare;
- employers need to meet or maintain CTR goals;
- Employee Transportation Coordinators (ETCs) are committed to providing and supporting on-going ridesharing promotions to employees;
- employees need help finding ridematch partners;
- worksites lack the employee populations necessary for successful internal ridematching;
- neighboring employers work together on trip reduction, with joint ridematch promotions;
- ETCs can't dedicate enough time to maintain an up-to-date in-house ridematch program.

How does Ridematch help meet CTR goals?

Ridematch identifies and serves potential carpool and vanpool partners, providing a solid foundation for an employer's CTR program. It can also provide data for marketing analysis to be used by employers when designing and maintaining a CTR program.

How much does Ridematch cost?

Ridematch is a free service.

Answers to commonly asked questions:

Q. What happens when someone requests Metro's Ridematch service?

A. Metro inputs customers' commute information into the computerized system and analyzes the matching results. Metro then sends a ridematch letter with the names of the best potential rideshare partners with contact information, and a map showing the approximate location of potential ridesharing partners.

Q. How does the Ridematch system ensure confidentiality to registrants?

A. Metro uses customer information for matching purposes only. Match letters contain no home addresses and identify only potential carpool or vanpool partners. Metro removes customer information from its database when customers no longer are interested in the service.

Q. How long does the Ridematch process take?

A. A match letter is usually mailed within 48 hours of receipt of a Ridematch application to the applicant. Turnaround time may be longer when an employer submits a large number of applications at one time.

Q. Can the cover letter mailed with the ridematch letter be customized?

A. Yes, information about an employer's transportation program can be added by Metro to the cover letter at an employer's request.

Q. What is a "closed match"?

A. Closed matching restricts the system's search to employees within their own company or group of employers. Because closed matching searches a smaller group of applicants, it is not as effective, nor is it recommended for smaller sites.